

ENTERED

October 30, 2023

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

IN RE: VENATOR MATERIALS PLC
SECURITIES LITIGATION

Civil Action No. 4:19-cv-03464

[PROPOSED] ORDER APPROVING DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Plaintiffs moved this Court for an order approving a distribution plan for the Net Settlement Fund in the above-captioned securities class action (“Action”). Having reviewed and considered Plaintiffs’ Unopposed Motion for Approval of Distribution Plan and the Declaration of Luiggy Segura in Support of Plaintiffs’ Unopposed Motion for Approval of Distribution Plan (“Segura Declaration”), and all other materials and arguments submitted in support of the motion,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated as of March 11, 2022 (ECF No. 117-2) (“Stipulation”), and the Segura Declaration, and all terms used in this Order shall have the same meanings as defined in the Stipulation and the Segura Declaration.
2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action and over all parties to the Action, including all Settlement Class Members.
3. Plaintiffs’ plan for distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants is **APPROVED**. Accordingly:

(a) The administrative determinations of the Court-approved Claims Administrator, JND Legal Administration (“JND”), to accept the Timely Eligible Claims set forth in Exhibit D to the Segura Declaration and the Late But Otherwise Eligible Claims set forth in Exhibit E to the Segura Declaration are adopted.

(b) The Claims Administrator’s administrative determinations to reject the Rejected Claims as set forth in Exhibit F to the Segura Declaration are adopted.

(c) JND is directed to conduct the Initial Distribution of the Net Settlement Fund after deducting all payments previously allowed, payments approved by this Order, and any estimated taxes, the costs of preparing appropriate tax returns, and any escrow fees, while maintaining a 5% reserve from the Net Settlement Fund to address any tax liability or claims administration-related contingencies that may arise.

Specifically, as set forth in paragraph 44(a) of the Segura Declaration:

- (1) JND will calculate award amounts for all Authorized Claimants as if the entire Net Settlement Fund were to be distributed now. JND will calculate each Authorized Claimant’s *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund based on the amount of the Authorized Claimant’s Recognized Claim in comparison to the total Recognized Claims of all Authorized Claimants;
- (2) JND will then eliminate from the Initial Distribution any Authorized Claimant whose total *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund is less than \$10.00. These Claimants will not receive any payment from the Net Settlement Fund and will be so notified JND;
- (3) After eliminating Claimants

who would have received less than \$10.00, JND will recalculate the *pro rata* shares of the Net Settlement Fund for Authorized Claimants who would have received \$10.00 or more based on the amount of the Authorized Claimant's Recognized Claim in comparison to the total Recognized Claims of all Authorized Claimants who would have received \$10.00 or more. This *pro rata* share is the Authorized Claimant's "Distribution Amount"; (4) Authorized Claimants whose Distribution Amount calculates to less than \$200.00 will be paid their full Distribution Amount in the Initial Distribution ("Claims Paid in Full"). These Authorized Claimants will receive no additional funds in subsequent distributions; and (5) 95% of the remaining balance of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed *pro rata* to Authorized Claimants whose Distribution Amount calculates to \$200.00 or more. The remaining 5% of the Net Settlement Fund will be held in the Reserve to address any tax liability or claims administration-related contingencies that may arise following the Initial Distribution. To the extent the Reserve is not depleted, the remainder will be distributed in the Second Distribution described in subparagraph (f) below.

(d) To encourage Authorized Claimants to cash their checks promptly, all distribution checks will bear the following notation: "CASH PROMPTLY. VOID AND SUBJECT TO REDISTRIBUTION IF NOT CASHED BY [DATE 90 DAYS AFTER ISSUE DATE]." Lead Counsel and JND are authorized to take appropriate

action to locate and contact Authorized Claimants who have not cashed their checks within said time as detailed in paragraph 44(b) of the Segura Declaration.

(e) Authorized Claimants who do not cash their Initial Distribution checks within the time allotted or on the conditions set forth in paragraph 44(b) of the Segura Declaration will irrevocably forfeit all recovery from the Settlement, and the funds allocated to these stale-dated checks will be available to be distributed to other Authorized Claimants in the Second Distribution. Similarly, Authorized Claimants who do not cash their distribution checks in the Second Distribution or subsequent distributions, should such distributions occur, within the time allotted or on the conditions set forth in paragraph 44(b) of the Segura Declaration will irrevocably forfeit any further recovery from the Net Settlement Fund.

(f) After JND has made reasonable and diligent efforts to have Authorized Claimants cash their Initial Distribution checks (as provided in paragraph 44(b) of the Segura Declaration), but not earlier than seven (7) months after the Initial Distribution, JND will, after consulting with Lead Counsel, conduct the Second Distribution, in which any amount remaining in the Net Settlement Fund, after deducting any unpaid fees and expenses incurred, will be distributed to all Authorized Claimants (other than Claims Paid in Full) who cashed their Initial Distribution check and are entitled to receive at least \$10.00 from the Second Distribution based on their *pro rata* share of the remaining funds. If any funds remain in the Net Settlement Fund after the Second Distribution, and if cost-effective, subsequent distributions will take place at six-month intervals.

(g) When Lead Counsel, in consultation with JND, determines that further distribution of the funds remaining in the Net Settlement Fund is not cost-effective, if sufficient funds remain to warrant the processing of Claims received after October 5, 2023, those Claims will be processed, and any otherwise valid Claims received after October 5, 2023, as well as any earlier-received Claims for which an upward adjustment was received after October 5, 2023, will be paid in accordance with subparagraph (h) below. If any funds remain in the Net Settlement Fund after payment of these Claims and unpaid fees or expenses, the remaining funds will be contributed to the National Consumer Law Center (“NCLC”).

(h) No new Claims may be accepted after October 5, 2023, and no further adjustments to Claims received on or before October 5, 2023, that would result in an increased Recognized Claim amount may be made for any reason after October 5, 2023, subject to the following exception. If Claims are received or modified after October 5, 2023, that would have been eligible for payment or additional payment pursuant to the Court-approved Plan of Allocation if timely received, then, at the time that Lead Counsel, in consultation with JND, determines a distribution is not cost-effective as provided in subparagraph (g) above, and after payment of any unpaid fees or expenses incurred in connection with administering the Net Settlement Fund and after deducting the payment of any estimated taxes, the costs of preparing appropriate tax returns, and any escrow fees, these Claimants, at the discretion of Lead Counsel and to the extent possible, may be paid their distribution amounts or additional distribution amounts on a *pro rata* basis that would bring

them into parity with other Authorized Claimants who have cashed all their prior distribution checks.


4. The Court finds that the administration of the Settlement and the proposed distribution of the Net Settlement Fund comply with the terms of the Stipulation and Plan of Allocation approved by this Court and that all persons involved in the review, verification, calculation, tabulation, or any other aspect of the processing of the Claims submitted, or who are otherwise involved in the administration or taxation of the Settlement Fund or the Net Settlement Fund, are hereby released and discharged from any and all claims arising out of that involvement, and all Settlement Class Members and other Claimants, whether or not they receive payment from the Net Settlement Fund, are hereby barred from making any further claims against the Net Settlement Fund, Plaintiffs, Lead Counsel, the Claims Administrator, the Escrow Agent or any other agent retained by Plaintiffs or Lead Counsel in connection with the administration or taxation of the Settlement Fund or the Net Settlement Fund, or any other person released under the Settlement beyond the amounts allocated to Authorized Claimants.

5. All of JND's fees and expenses incurred in the administration of the Settlement and estimated to be incurred in connection with the Initial Distribution of the Net Settlement Fund as set forth in the invoices attached as Exhibit G to the Segura Declaration are approved, and Lead Counsel is directed to pay the outstanding balance of \$298,644.02 out of the Settlement Fund to JND.

6. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, JND may destroy the paper copies of the Claims and all supporting documentation one year after the Initial Distribution, and one year after all funds have been distributed may destroy the electronic copies of the same.

7. This Court retains jurisdiction to consider any further applications concerning the administration of the Settlement, and any other and further relief that this Court deems appropriate.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of October 2023.



The Honorable George C. Hanks, Jr.
United States District Judge